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ANNUAL

REPORT

OF

Wm. E. BARKER

M.B. Ch.B. (VICT.) & L.S.A. (LOND).

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1937

—♦—

CLITHEROE

Advertiser & Times, Printers.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE
HEALTH COMMITTEE
OF THE
BOROUGH OF CLITHEROE

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my (Thirty-sixth) Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health, for the year 1937, and this is set out in accordance with instructions issued to Medical Officers by the Ministry of Health.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM E. BARKER



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BOROUGH OF CLITHEROE.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1937.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

W. E. BARKER, M.B., Ch.B., (Vict.) L.S.A., (London),
Part-time Officer.

SANITARY INSPECTOR :

JAMES BOLTON, Certificates of Royal Sanitary Institute.

SCHOOL NURSE AND HEALTH VISITOR :

ELSA W. BATES, S.R.N., S.C.M., Health Visitor's Certificate.

1—GENERAL STATISTICS, etc.

These remain substantially as in former Reports.

The Cotton Trade, the town's principle industry, which had shown some improvement during 1936, has been less prosperous during the past year and a considerable number of people have been wholly or partially unemployed.

No trades considered especially harmful to health are carried on in the town.

The population at the Census, 1931, was 12,008. For the purposes of this Report the population is estimated as 11,300 and the Birth and Death rates are based on this figure.

The number of inhabited Houses at the Census, 1931, was 3,215, the number of families or separate occupiers being 3,250.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1937 was 3,540.

The Rateable Value of the Urban District (including Government Property) is £64,057, the sum represented by a Penny Rate being about £250.

2—SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

113 live Births were registered during the year (a decrease of 33 upon 1936), and of this number 56 were males and 57 females.

Three of the above Births were illegitimate, one male and two females. Five such births were registered during the previous year.

This gives a Birth Rate of 10.0 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, which is 2.7 below the figure for 1936, and 1.7 below the average for the previous five years, which was 11.7.

Seven Stillbirths (three males and four females) were registered during 1937, giving a rate of 58 per 1,000 total (live and still) births. Careful enquiry is made by the Nurse into the history of these cases.

There were three Maternal Deaths during the year, one from Puerperal Sepsis and two from other Puerperal causes. This gave a Rate of 25.0 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

The number of Deaths registered during the year actually belonging to the Borough, was 149, a decrease of 24 upon the figure for 1936, and of this number, 60 were males and 89 females.

The adjusted Death Rate for 1937, is therefore, 13.1 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, a figure which is 2.0 below that for 1936. The average for the previous five years was 12.8 per 1,000.

The 149 deaths registered included 38 from Organic Heart Disease, 20 from Cancer, one from Tuberculosis, six from Nephritis (acute and chronic), four from Pneumonia, eight from Cerebral Haemorrhage, three from Diabetes, ten from Bronchitis, and three from Influenza.

Two Deaths were attributable during the year to Diphtheria and one to Whooping Cough.

There were seven deaths during the year of children under one year of age, giving an Infant Mortality Rate of 61 per 1,000 live births registered, an increase of seven per 1,000 upon the figures for 1936, and also an increase of fourteen per 1,000 on the mean of the previous five years, which was 47.

3—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR

Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever, which were prevalent during 1936(64 and 46 cases respectively) continued into the year under review, 22 cases of the former and 47 of the latter being reported.

The majority of the cases of both diseases were of a mild character and undoubtedly in some instances the ailment was overlooked by parents entirely, notwithstanding the issue of pamphlets and posters advising them to call in medical attention in all cases of sore throats.

On the whole, however, the Infectious Reports for 1937 compare very favourably with those for the previous year, viz. : 96 in the former year as against 138 in 1936.

I should like to repeat the recommendation I made in my last Report, that in view of the proved efficacy of immunisation treatment against Diphtheria, the Council would be well advised to provide such treatment free, or on assisted terms, so that all parents could take advantage of it for their children. Outbreaks of Diphtheria, as is also the case with some other infectious diseases, recur at intervals when a new generation of young children has reached a susceptible age, and as such outbreaks are not only dangerous to life, but costly, immunisation would probably be a good investment even from a monetary point of view.

The Council has agreed to join in a scheme for the provision of a joint Hospital for Infectious Diseases for this portion of Lancashire, and this will be a valuable addition to the District.

In regard to other notifiable ailments, the Table shows that the number of Reports from Tubercular Disease was the same as in 1936, namely nine, and that year had shown a marked decrease on the average of previous years.

There was one Report of Puerperal Pyrexia and one of Acute Poliomyelitis.

The other figures call for no comment.

Notifiable Diseases	Cases Notified in Whole District										Cases admitted to Hospital		
	At all ages	Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	7	...	4	1	1	1
Diphtheria	22	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...
Erysipelas	3	...	...	...	2	4	25	6	2	8	...	...	3
Scarlet Fever	47	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	1	...	...
Other forms of Tuberculosis	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	2	3
Pneumonia	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	96	2	1	..	4	4	30	18	3	17	8	5	4

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	At all ages	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT										65 and over	
		Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-35	35-45	45-65
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Pneumonia	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Puerperal Sepsis	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Other Puerperal Causes	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	12	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2

TUBERCULOSIS

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulm'ry		Pulmonary		Non-Pulm'ry	
	Males	Fe- males	Males	Fe- males	Males	Fe- males	Males	Fe- males
Under 1 year....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
1 and under 5	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
5 " " 10	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
10 " " 15	1	1	....	2	....	....	....	....
15 " " 20	20	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
20 " " 25	25	....	1	....	1	....	....	....
25 " " 35	35	1	....	....	....	....	....	....
35 " " 45	45	....	1	....	1	....	1	....
45 " " 55	55	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
55 " " 65	65	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
65 and upwards	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
TOTALS	2	3	....	4	....	1	....	....

Oph- thalmia- Neon- atorum	CASES				Vision unim- paired	Vision Im- paired	Total Blind- ness	Deaths				
	Noti- fied	TREATED		At Home								
		In Hospital										
....	2	2	....	....	1	....	....	1

SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, &c.

These remain as in my last Report and are as follows.

The Council employ a full-time nurse whose duties are divided between School Inspection and Maternity and Child Welfare work, the Welfare Centre being held on each alternate Tuesday.

The nurse has a "clerical assistant" who assists at the various Clinics, and acts as Dental Attendant, etc.

The Ante-Natal Clinic is held on the third Wednesday in each month, with Dr. Newton, of St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, in charge, and there is an arrangement whereby this Hospital has undertaken to admit any cases either pre-natal or post-natal, recommended by Dr. Newton, the Council paying a fixed fee per case.

Expectant mothers are advised to engage a midwife, and to attend the Clinic, early in pregnancy, and the midwives themselves attend the Clinic regularly, as do some of the Medical men occasionally, and, whenever necessary, Dr. Newton at once communicates, by letter or telephone, with the doctor who has been provisionally engaged to attend the case concerned.

Arrangements exist for the taking of X-Ray photographs when desirable.

In addition, Dr. Briggs, of Blackburn, is available for consultation when desired during pregnancy, in difficult midwifery cases, and in cases of Puerperal Fever, or Pyrexia, and when necessary these cases can always be removed to the Blackburn Infirmary.

This is the nearest Hospital for all medical and surgical cases and very considerable use is made of it. The Council have a Motor Ambulance for the removal of patients to Blackburn, Manchester, etc.

We have an arrangement with Blackburn for the admission of cases of Smallpox to their Isolation Hospital, the Council paying an annual retaining fee; and when beds are available the Blackburn Authority are always willing to admit other infectious diseases to their Hospital (at a weekly charge) when

efficient isolation at home is impossible, or where surgical interference is necessary, as in Mastoid cases. In these circumstances a Blackburn Ambulance is available for the removal of the patients.

In 1936, the Council concluded arrangements to join the County Scheme for the Orthopaedic treatment of children of all ages.

There is a local Nursing Association employing three certified midwives, who also undertake district nursing, and the Council have an undertaking from the Association to provide nurses when necessary for the home treatment of cases of Measles, Scarlet Fever, etc.

The Council supply milk, in accordance with a wages scale, which has been approved by the Ministry, to children and expectant and nursing mothers. During 1937, Cod Liver Oil has been supplied in addition and there is a tacit understanding that my duties in this regard are to be carried out in a sympathetic manner.

Arrangements are in force whereby the School Clinics conducted by Dr. Wishart, of Blackburn, for Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat cases are available for children, under school age, attending the Welfare Centre.

The County Council is the Authority here for the supervision of Tuberculosis, and a copy of the notifications received each week is sent to the County Medical Officer.

There is no Institutional provision for un-married mothers, illegitimate children, or homeless children.

The nearest Venereal Clinic is at Blackburn.

5—LABORATORY WORK

This shows no change.

The arrangement continues in force with the Public Health Laboratory in Manchester for the examination of Pathological Specimens.

A supply of Diphtheria Anti-toxin is available at the Health Office and at the local Police Station, and this is provided free of charge to persons not in a position to pay for it.

6—SANITARY ADMINISTRATION

Water Supply

This is from neighbouring upland sources, is always adequate and of exceptional softness and purity, and well suited for all drinking and domestic purposes.

Samples taken at various points have been forwarded monthly to the Public Analyst and the reports received, both chemical and bacteriological have been satisfactory.

Recent events, however, have drawn renewed attention to the importance of taking the most stringent precautions to safeguard the purity of public water supplies, and in the case of Clitheroe something still remains to be done.

The matter is to be the subject of a joint Report to the Council by the Borough Engineer and myself, at an early date.

Drainage and Sewage

The surface drainage is received into the Mearley Brook which runs through the town.

CAUSES OF AND AGES

CAUSES OF DEATH	Nett Deaths at the ages at which they occur		
	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2
All Causes—Certified	149	7	2
Uncertified .....	..	..	..
Cerebro-Spinal Fever .....	..	..	..
Measles .....	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	1	..	1
Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fever ..	..	..	..
Diphtheria	2	..	1
Influenza	3	..	..
Encephalitis Lethargica .....	..	..	..
Diabetes	3	..	..
Cerebral Haemorrhage, &c. ..	8	..	..
Diarrhoea &c. (under 2 years) ..	..	..	..
Congenital Debility and Mal- formation, Premature Birth ..	5	5	..
Peptic Ulcer	2	..	..
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	..	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases ..	..	..	..
Acute and Chronic Nephritis ..	6	..	..
Cancer, Malignant Disease ..	20	..	..
Heart Disease	38	..	..
Bronchitis	10	..	..
Pneumonia (all forms)	4	..	..
Appendicitis	2	..	..
Deaths from Violence	5	..	..
Suicide	1	..	..
Puerperal Sepsis	1	..	..
Other Puerperal Causes	2	..	..
Senility	2	..	..
Other Defined Diseases	33	2	..
Causes Ill-defined or Unknown ..	..	..	..
TOTALS	149	7	2

DEATH DURING 1937

joined ages of " Residents " whether within or without the District.						Total Deaths whether of " Residents " or " Non-residents " in Institutions in the District
and lder 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards	
3	1	6	21	49	60	25
..
..
..
..	1	..	1
..	..	2	1	..	..	..
..
..	2	1	..
..	3	4	3
..
..	1	1	..	..
..	1	..	..	..
..
..	2	1	3	1
..	2	7	11	3
..	..	1	3	18	16	12
..	1	3	6	1
..	1	1	2	1
1	..	1	..	..	..	..
1	2	2	..
..	1	..	..	..
..	1	..	..	..
..	..	1	1	..	..	..
..	2	..
1	1	3	4	9	13	3
..
3	1	6	21	49	60	25

During 1936 extensive improvements were carried out at the Sewerage Works, including the construction of two pumping stations, four percolating filters, two humus tanks, effluent carriers, dosing chambers, along with alterations and rearrangement of existing tanks.

The Works may now be considered as efficient and up-to-date.

House Refuse, &c.

The following is a summary of the work done in the removal of House Refuse, Nightsoil, &c., during the year :—

1—House and Shop Refuse removed and taken to destructor	1860 loads
2—Offal from Public Abattoirs.....	174 loads
3—Fish and Vegetable Offal from Trade Premises and Market.....	303 loads
4—Nightsoil from Pail closets.....	52 loads
<hr/>	
Total Loads.....	2389

The total weight of House and Shop Refuse (1,860 loads) removed amounted to 2,917 tons 13 cwts. 3 qrs.

This is a decrease of 101 tons on the figures for the previous year.

Closet Accommodation

The Sanitary accommodation of the Borough now consists of 2,230 Freshwater Closets, 1,500 Slopwater Closets, and 29 Pail Closets.

I should like to again emphasise the fact that in view of their unsatisfactory character, it is extremely desirable that the numbers of these two latter should be reduced to the lowest possible minimum without further delay, and it might be well worth the while of the Council to offer some financial assistance to property owners with this object in view.

Slaughterhouses

In addition to the four Slaughterhouses at the Public Abattoirs, there are in the Borough three Private Slaughterhouses for the slaughtering of animals intended for human consumption. All these are under the supervision and control of the Health Department.

Meat and Food Inspection

These Public Abattoirs and Slaughterhouses have been inspected frequently during the year and the quality of the meat met with was of a high standard generally.

The carcases of two cows, affected with Tuberculosis were condemned during the year.

Lodging-Houses

There is one Common Lodging-House in the Borough, with accommodation for 256 persons, including 243 single beds for males, ten beds in married quarters, and three single beds for females. There are also furnished apartments for 24 persons.

The house is visited frequently by the Sanitary Inspector, and by the Police, under whose supervision the premises are registered. There have been no contraventions of the Bye-laws.

Bakehouses

These have been frequently visited during the year.

Factories and Workshops

There are now 57 Factories and 76 Registered Workshops, together with 32 workplaces in the Borough, making a total of 165 premises which come within the scope of the Factories and Workshops Act, 1901.

These premises have been regularly inspected.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops

There are 29 Registered Cowsheds in the Borough, and there are also eleven dairymen, or milk purveyors, on the local registers.

Three licences are in existence for the sale of Accredited Milk, and two for Pasteurised Milk.

No noteworthy improvements to premises have been actually made during 1937, though in two cases considerable improvements were contemplated at the end of the year.

In one case a reconstructed Dairy was opened temporarily pending the completion of other more up-to-date premises, which are expected to be ready for occupation shortly.

In two instances Tubercl Bacilli were found by other Authorities, in the milk supplied to their districts from one farm in Clitheroe. The cattle concerned were examined, and re-examined, and eventually two of the animals were slaughtered, and found to be suffering from Tuberculosis.

Milk and Cream Regulations

No samples were taken with a view to ascertaining the presence of preservatives.

Sale of Food and Drugs

Under the Food and Drugs Acts, 21 samples of butter, cheese, flour, honey, lard, margarine and milk were purchased by the Police during the year and forwarded to the Borough Analyst for report. All samples were found to be genuine.

Summary of Visits, &c.

The following is a summary of the Visits, &c., made during the year by the Public Health Staff :—

House-to-House Inspections	175
House-to-House Re-inspections	310
Other House Inspections	74
Visits re Overcrowding	12
Factory and Workshop Inspections	86
Visits to Infected Houses	115
Slaughterhouse Inspections	118
Dairies and Cowsheds Inspections	78
Visits to Milkshops	15
Visits re Complaints	301
Visits re Work in Progress	182
Miscellaneous Visits by Inspector	368
Smoke Observations	1
Houses Disinfected	79
Houses disinfested	6
Preliminary Notices Served	256

HEALTH VISITOR—

Primary Visits to Infants under 1 year.....	98
Secondary Visits to Infants under 1 year....	435
Visits to Children 1 to 5 years.....	1116
Visits to Expectant Mothers.....	27
Visits re Stillbirths.....	3
Visits re Children and Young Persons Act....	21
Miscellaneous Visits.....	158

The following is a list of the works carried out in the abatement of Nuisances :—

Choked Drains opened and cleansed	43
Defective Drains Repaired.....	15
Defective Slopwater Closets repaired.....	34
Defective Sinks and Waste Pipes repaired or replaced.....	21
Defective Eaves Gutters and Downspouts repaired	48
Yard surfaces repaired.....	7
Defective Windows repaired	312
Defective Floors repaired.....	48
Dilapidated House Walls and Ceilings repaired	54
Exterior Walls roughcasted or pointed to remedy dampness.....	6
Defective Roofs repaired	46
Defective Chimney Stacks made good	8
Defective Fire-ranges repaired or replaced ...	10
Premises requiring Limewashing.....	2
Outhouse buildings repaired.....	3

7—HOUSING

Statistics

Number of houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	60
(b) As part of Municipal Housing Scheme.....	32

1—INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	157
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose...	286
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	65
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose...	104
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	49
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	37

2—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.....

28

3—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :

A—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs.....	20
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners.....	4
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.

B—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By Owners.....	Nil.
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners..	Nil.

C—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.....	17
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.....	14

*D—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing
Act, 1936 :*

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.....	Nil.
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit.....	Nil.

4—HOUSING ACT, 1936. PART IV. OVERCROWDING :—

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year.....	15
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein.....	15
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein.....	95
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.....	Nil.
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.....	8
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	58

HOUSING CONDITIONS

During the year the 32 houses, the erection of which by the Local Authority was well advanced at the end of 1936, have been completed, whilst a further 28 houses have been built by private enterprise, making a total of 60 houses completed during the year.

During the same period 15 houses were permanently closed, and 14 others demolished, this action being taken under the Housing Act.

The details were as follows :—

Houses permanently closed :

48b and 50b, North Street
128 to 142, Bawdlands
40, Bawdlands
1, Mearley Street
16, Duck Street
130 and 134, Lowergate

Houses demolished :

18, 20, 22 and 24, Duck Street
3, 5, 7, 9 and 11, Mearley Street
1, 3 and 11, Wilkin Square
6 and 8, Harrop Street

Of the 32 houses erected by the Council, and completed during 1937, 15 were let to families displaced by closing or demolition orders.

The issue of closing orders is contemplated, under the Housing Act, in regard to the five houses numbered 15 to 23, Wilkin Square, and the single house numbered 23, Lower Gate, but owing to legal difficulties (in one case the owners live abroad) and the lack of alternative accommodation, no definite action has been possible up to the end of the year.

With regard to the adjoining back-to-back houses, numbered 107, Whalley Road, and 1 and 3, Craven Street, the owners, on representations from the Council, have consented to demolition orders.

Attention has also been directed to the six back-to-back houses numbered 18, 20, 26, 28, 30 and 32, Park Street, and to the three houses numbered 22, 34 and 36 in the same street, which are not in good repair, and the owner has given an undertaking, which has been accepted by the Council, to convert the six former into three through houses, and to recondition the whole of the property.

Further houses to which attention has been directed are numbered 1 to 13, Back York Street. These are old houses, substantially built, but arranged with entire disregard to lighting, ventilation and surrounding air space, and the Council has accepted a scheme, submitted by the owner, which involves the demolition of No. 13, the conversion of Nos. 7 and 9 into one large through house, and improvements to the lighting and ventilation of Nos. 1 and 3. Some of the work was being carried out at the end of the year.

The owner of Nos. 38 and 40, Bawdlands, which are back-to-back houses has undertaken to convert them into one through house, but whilst No. 40 is now empty, the tenant is still in occupation of No. 38, and lack of alternative accommodation is holding up the promised work in this and in other cases.

A detached house, which is damp and unfit for a dwelling house, numbered 218, Whalley Road, has been recently purchased by the Council, and as soon as alternative accommodation has been found for the tenant, further steps will be taken in regard to the building.

Action with respect to a block of eight back-to-back houses numbered 60 to 74, Lowergate, was under consideration at the end of the year.

No progress has been made during 1937 with the additional 46 houses contemplated by the Council at the end of 1936, and there is a considerable shortage of houses suitable for the working classes.

Overcrowding

During the year, eight cases of Overcrowding were remedied. In one case this was remedied by the removal of a second family from the house, in three cases the families procured more commodious premises privately, while in the remaining four cases, the families were rehoused on the Municipal Housing Estate.

Unhealthy Areas

There are no actual "slum" areas in the Borough, the unsuitable houses being scattered throughout the town.

Bye-Laws

Modern Bye-laws relating to "New Streets and Buildings" came into force in June, 1927, and there have been no special difficulties in their enforcement.

There are no Bye-laws in force with respect to "Houses let in Lodgings," or relating to Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc., but it is highly desirable that further powers should be sought in respect thereto.

